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## Statesmen's Series

## Security Official Says Constructive Accomplishment Is Undramatic Chore

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This is another in the "Statesmen's Series" columns being written by distinguished personages in the government, national affairs, business and the military for Thomas L. Stokes, who is seriously ill.

Washington, April 3.—This is easier, to be more philosophical my first, and possibly last, than when one must catch the chance to be a columnist. How eye of the general public. A newspaper is a business and should one use this unique opportunity? If it were used to must get readers, while I have a write of columnists, this might somewhat captive readership. be to abuse the hospitality of a distinguished member of the Disasters and failures, rather than accomplishment, catch the fraternity—one whose writings I eye of the man in the street. have always enjoyed and whose They provide the drama which integrity, fearlessness, and honesty I have always admired. makes natural appeal to writer and to reader. Success of policy is only par for the course and few governments can hope to achieve it all the time.

I also have to write my "columns" daily, weekly, and sometimes on the hour. I have to put my reputation on the line even more often, though less publicly, than the professionals. Maybe I have a slight advantage over them in volume of information upon which I base my prophecies. But that, too, creates the problem of separating the wheat from a good bit of chaff.

Another advantage I enjoy is some protection from the brickbats of public criticism which must be the daily fare of the professionals. To do my work, a measure of secrecy is essential and is given me by law. That, however, brings with it the responsibility not to answer back to any public charge of failure properly to interpret or to forecast the course of events. Whether the charge is right or wrong, I should remain silent.

Of course, it is far easier for the intelligence officer to forecast some future event than it is to the world as peace-lovers for the policy-makers to show working selflessly to help others the course of events so as to and cry "Excelsior" as they press avoid all pitfalls, even though to the summit. they may possibly have been foreseen. Yet how many people know that, with a total production only about 40 per cent of our own, the gross military effort of these

"peace-lovers" is about equal to ours? The difference they take

out of the hide of their own people in scrimping on consumer goods and all that goes to raise the standard of living and to make life more worth-while.

In this country, public criticism is free and easy. This is right and necessary. But it is well to remember that constructive accomplishment is a slow and often undramatic task.

In the field of international affairs, our security must be achieved these days against the background of forces let loose by two devastating wars—the world-shaking bolshevik revolution, the rise of unbridled nationalism and of peoples immature in the art of making government—by the people really work. Dictatorships, whether of the so-called proletariat or the Fascist type, appear to many to be all too easy an answer.

In the last 40 years, more new and independent states have been created than in the 40 centuries which preceded it. Each has its problems, its demands, its animosities and its fears.

We are living in an era where the explosive forces in the international and social fields are as great as those of nuclear fusion and fission. This does not help to create a comfortable world. Yet it is the one in which we live and about which "we columnists" must write, and in which our government must chart its course.

Anyone who expects quick and wholly satisfactory answers is an optimist, indeed. But mere pessimism, because a quick cure for these problems is not within our grasp, is equally unrealistic, for it overlooks the great moral and material assets of which the peoples of the free worlds dispose.

also in:

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